

City of Newton



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Recommended Immunizations for Teachers and School Staff

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has established a schedule of recommended immunizations for school teachers and school staff members. It applies to full-time and part-time teachers, staff and student teachers. These immunizations are not required, but recommended.

If a case of any vaccine preventable disease occurs at school, all susceptible students and staff must be excluded in accordance with MDPH regulations. Examples of vaccine preventable diseases include varicella (chicken pox), measles, mumps and pertussis.

Teachers and staff members, especially those who are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or immunocompromised, are advised to know their immunization status in case of a vaccine preventable disease in the school.

If you have questions about the vaccinations, contact the school nurse in your building or the Health & Human Services Department at (617) 796-1420.

Recommended Immunizations for Teachers and School Staff		
Vaccine	Persons Born Before 1957	Persons Born In or After 1957
MMR (Measles, Mumps Rubella)	1 dose recommended for women of childbearing age; and for all adults not born in the U.S.	2 doses
Varicella (see note below)	2 doses	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	
Td/Tdap	1 Td booster every 10 years. Substitute Tdap for 1 dose of Td.	
Annual Influenza	Recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older.	

*Note: Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine is recommended for those who do not have documentation of age-appropriate immunization, a reliable history of varicella disease (physician diagnosis or personal recall) or serologic evidence of immunity. Additionally, if there is a case of chicken pox and a susceptible individual is determined to be a close contact, exclusion from school may be necessary for a period of 12 days. Treatment for susceptible individuals can be given within 5 days of exposure to prevent disease and shorten the length of exclusion.